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OZOKERITE CITED IN MEDICAL TREATMENT

Prof S. Lepskiy
' Moscow

Ozokerite was introduced in medical practice in 1942 and since then has been used in medical institutes of Moscow Oblast as well as other oblasts and towns. The Ministry of Public Health is still publicizing this preparation and recently called a meeting which was attended by medical specialists from every part of the Soviet Union. The purpose was to sell ozokerite to general practitioners by extolling its virtues and advantages.

Ozokerite, it was explained, is also known as mineral wax. It is characterized by its ability to retain heat for a long time. Much clinical and laboratory data has been collected for the past 8 years. It has been found effective in treating dysfunctions of the vegetative nervous system.

One report described the excellent results ozokerite produced in endoarthritis, ulcerous processes, and some complications accompanying dysentery. However, the greatest attribute of this substance is its ability to inhibit suppurative processes and pain, with the result that it has become widely used in the clinical treatment of neurological, gynecological, and other disorders.

One of the delegates to the meeting reported favorable results obtained by using ozokerite in exudative pleuritis, croupous pneumonia, and in some cases of hypertonia.

Studies were conducted for a long time at the Moscow Oblast Clinic and results were checked. The final verdict was that ozokerite was effective in promoting the regeneration of damaged peripheral nerves.

The effectiveness of ozokerite has been reported from other medical institutions. The Moscow Traumatological Clinic reports effective cure of traumatic arthritis, the Central Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics has successfully

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treated endoarteritis. The Krasnosvetskaya Infectious Disease Hospital and Children's Clinical Hospital used ozokerite for some time together with sulfamide preparations in the treatment of dysentery.

There are two generally accepted methods for applying ozokerite. One involves a bath in molten ozokerite (it melts at 60 to 80 degrees). Six or seven layers are applied. A sort of compress is placed over the ozokerite to prevent its breaking off. The first layer is usually applied at a temperature of 40 degrees, while subsequent layers are usually heated to 60 to 70 degrees prior to application.

The other method involves the use of a special ozokerite compress which is applied to the site of inflammation at a temperature of 40 to 45 degrees. Each course requires about one hour, and it is recommended that each patient receive 15 to 20 treatments.

The Laboratory for Studying the Physicochemical and Therapeutic Value of Ozokerite, Central Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics, has prepared several salves, using ozokerite as a base. The salves have been approved by the Pharmacological Committee of the Scientific Medical Council, Ministry of Public Health USSR.

Ozokerite is strictly a Soviet product and can be found in unlimited amounts. In 1950, a cut was announced in the cost of medicinal ozokerite, permitting its purchase by all therapeutic agencies in the USSR.

A special Methodological Commission has been organized at the Central Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics which will coordinate scientific and research work as well as therapeutic work in the field of ozokerite therapy. The importance of ozokerite is shown in a recent decree of the Ministry of Public Health USSR which binds the Ministry of Public Health RSFSR to expedite use of ozokerite in hospital practice in the republics.

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